

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070223

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, GR (HAYS, WAYNE)

SUBJ: VISIT TO ATHENS OF CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYS TO
MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER PAPADOPOULOS

REF: ATHENS 2200

DAVIES INFORMED AMB SOROKOS APR 12 OF DESIRE CONGRESSMAN
HAYS TO VISIT GREECE TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER,
NOTING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR THE DEPARTMENT. HE MADE
CLEAR THE CONGRESSMAN WOULD VISIT ONLY IF SUCH A MEETING
POSSIBLE AND URGED FAVORABLE RESPONSE BY GOG.

1. IN SUPPORTING HAYS' REQUEST, FOLLOWING POINTS MADE:
CONGRESSMAN HAYS IS A KEY MEMBER OF CONGRESS, IS HIGHLY
INTERESTED IN EUROPEAN AND FREE WORLD SECURITY, AND AS
MEMBER FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, HIGHLY IMPORTANT IN
TERMS HIS SUPPORT OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
WHILE DEPARTMENT CERTAINLY COULD NOT ASSURE THAT
CONGRESSMAN'S REACTIONS WOULD BE FAVORABLE, OPPORTUNITY
FOR SERIOUS EXCHANGE SHOULD NOT BE LIGHTLY DISMISSED.
FAILURE TO RECEIVE HAYS COULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON
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CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS BOTH TOWARD OUR GREEK POLICY AND
BROADER POLICY INTERESTS.

IN A FOLLOW- UP MEETING WITH MINISTER GREGORIADES,
CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICER FOLGER, AND DAVIES, ABOVE
POINTS WERE REVIEWED AND CONGRESSMAN' S SERIOUS CONCERN
FOR US AND EUROPEAN SECURITY AGAIN STRESSED. POSSIBILITY
OF HANDLING VISIT WITH MINIMUM PUBLICITY DURING GREEK
HOLY WEEK ALSO CONSIDERED. DAVIES HELD IF HAYS
COULD BE MOVED FROM OPPOSITION TO GREEK POLICY TO
NEUTRAL POSITION, THIS WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS. HE ALSO
NOTED THAT CONGRESSMAN HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN HEARINGS
DURING WHICH DEPARTMENT WITNESSES HARASSED, BUT SEEMS
TO HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY INFLUENCED BY DISCUSSION OUR
POLICY WITH AMB TASCA SOME YEAR AND ONE- HALF AGO.
GREGORIADES NOTED HAYS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN QUIET ON
ISSUE IN RECENT MONTHS.

2. IN LATE EVENING CALL, GREGORIADES SAID AMB
SOROKOS FELT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM IN MAKING
HIS REQUEST IN ATHENS IF PRIME MINISTER COULD BE GIVEN
LIST OF TOPICS CONGRESSMAN WISHED TO DISCUSS. DAVIES
NOTED THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO ELICIT, BUT HE WOULD
CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS SO TO DO. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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